

REMARKS

Claims 18-22 and 24-36 are presently pending in the application. Claims 18-22 have been amended to more particularly define the invention. Claims 24-36 have been added to assure Applicant the degree of protection to which his invention entitles him. Claim 23 has been cancelled in the interest of expediting prosecution.

Applicant's invention is a map display method for displaying a map of a destination position. In accordance with an exemplary embodiment of Applicant's invention, a latitude and a longitude of the destination position are entered into a map display terminal; a wide area map of an area including the destination position is initially displayed, the wide area map having a smaller value of a scale ratio than an expanded and more detailed map of the area; the map display is centered on the destination position; a number of display stages is determined; an expansion ratio for each display stage is determined on the basis of a ratio of scale values of the wide area map and the expanded and more detailed map; and each display stage is displayed at the corresponding expansion ratio.

An exemplary embodiment of the sequence of map displays is depicted in Figure 2 of the drawings. As can be seen there, the display is expanded in a step-by-step manner according to the progress of down-loading of the detailed map data from a detailed map server. None of the references teaches or suggests such a map display method.

Claims 18-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Yano, et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,936,631. Claim 20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yano, et al., in view of DeLorme, et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,321,158. Claims 21-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yano, et al. and

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DeLorme, et al., and further in view of Kondou, et al., U.S. patent No. 6,073,075.

It is noted with appreciation that claim 23 was indicated to contain allowable subject matter.

The substance of claim 23 has been incorporated directly into independent claim 18. It is accordingly urged that claim 18 and its dependent claims 19-22 and 24-27 are allowable. Claims 18-22 have been amended so as to assure grammatical and idiomatic English and improved form under United States practice.

New independent claim 28 includes the allowable substance of claim 23, and so is also allowable, as are its dependent claims 29-36.

The original Abstract has been replaced by a new Abstract more related to this divisional application.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that claims 18-22 and 24-36, all the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are allowable, and that the application is in condition for allowance. Such action would be appreciated.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary for allowance in a telephonic or personal interview.

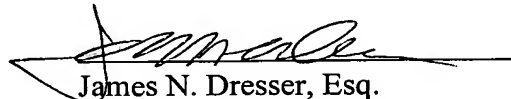
To the extent necessary, Applicant petitions for an extension of time under 37 CFR

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§1.136. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency in fees, including extension of time fees, or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully Submitted,

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James N. Dresser, Esq.
Registration No. 22,973

McGinn & Gibb, PLLC
8321 Old Courthouse Road, Suite 200
Vienna, VA 22182-3817
(703) 761-4100
Customer No. 21254